

Legislative Update

January 18, 2013 | Day 5 of the 105-day legislative session

The inaugural festivities and organizational maneuvers are over, and the Legislature is kicking in to high gear.

On Monday, the House Capital Budget committee held a public hearing on Gov. Gregoire's proposed Capital Budget, House Bill [1089](#). Thanks to David Trout from the Nisqually Tribe, Don Davidson from the City of Bellevue, and many others for speaking in support of the jobs, quality-of-life and recreational benefits we receive from Puget Sound. Partners provided public testimony about the highest priority investments for Puget Sound. Restoring the salmon and shellfish habitat, improving floodplain protection, and safeguarding water quality are at the top of the to-do list. Watch it here on TVW:

http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvplayer&viewID=2013010081-start=5141&stop=5330

On Tuesday, the House Environment Committee held a work session on House Bill [1113](#), regarding standards for the use of science to support public policy. The bill requires the Department of Ecology to identify the peer-reviewed science, scientific literature, and other sources of information being relied upon before taking significant agency action related to certain agency programs. It is scheduled for a committee vote Jan. 29.

The House Local Government Committee held a work session on House Bill [1052](#), regarding local government selection of appropriate sewer systems in urban areas. The bill authorizes counties and cities providing urban governmental services within urban growth areas to choose the main source of sewage treatment for any location, any approved systems for sewage and solid waste systems. We have concerns with the broad scope of the bill, which are not consistent with the sponsor's intent. We are meeting on Monday to work on amended language with the Washington On-Site Sewage Association, environmental community, local governments and state agencies.

2013 Legislature at a glance

Information:

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- To watch or listen to a legislative hearing, visit: www.tvw.org
- For both current and previous copies of the Legislative Report, visit: www.psp.wa.gov

Communication and Coordination:

If you are planning to testify on a bill, meet with legislators or would like help connecting with a legislator about Puget Sound issues—please contact Michael Grayum, the Partnership's Public Affairs Director at 360-628-1907.

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs Committee held a public hearing on House Bill [1079](#), regarding economic revitalization in urban growth areas. This bill promotes growth in urban areas by authorizing the Community Economic Revitalization Board to make loans to municipalities to finance improvements to public facilities (*domestic and industrial water, wastewater treatment, stormwater facilities, etc.*) to encourage the revitalization of abandoned and vacant properties in urban growth areas.

Funding for toxic prevention and protection are hot topics this legislative session. In the past four years, approximately \$230 million of surplus revenues have been transferred from the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA) to the State General Fund — diverting funding from the original purpose of the account. A coalition of business, environmental, ports and local governments are working together to protect this dedicated account. Meanwhile, legislation has been introduced to refocus the funding. Anyone interested in this important topic should watch the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government work session on MTCA, http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvplayer&eventID=2013011107#start=2510&stop=4248, as well as the hearing on two legislative proposals ([5296](#), [5201](#)) in the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications committee, http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvplayer&eventID=2013011097.

Wednesday was supposed to conclude with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee reviewing the report about the Partnership's 2012 Action Agenda Update. However, the committee meeting was postponed to a date yet to be determined.

On Thursday, the House Local Government Committee held a public hearing on House Bill [1104](#), which helps strengthen economic development and incentivizes up-front environmental planning. We worked with the business community and local governments on a similar bill a few years ago and this is a continuation of that effort. This legislation is scheduled for a committee vote on Feb. 1.

On Friday, the Partnership coordinated a conference call for our board members to discuss the Puget Sound-related bills that impact the work of our partner organizations and advance the most important regional priorities. Coordinating with more than 750 organizations isn't easy and we appreciate those who shared the perspective of the caucuses they represent. We will continue these calls every Friday.

Highlights for next week

- House Capital Budget Committee public hearing on House Bill 1089, regarding Gov. Gregoire's proposed 2013-2015 Capital Budget, on Monday, Jan. 28, at 1:30 p.m. This public hearing is a continuation from the Jan. 21 public hearing.
- House Agriculture and Natural Resources public hearing on House Bill 1245, regarding derelict and abandoned vessels in state waters, Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m.
- House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs Committee public hearing on House Bill 1277, regarding tribes holding conservation easements, Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 8 a.m.
- House Environment Committee public hearing on House Bill 123, prioritizing state investments in stormwater control, and House Bill 1237, regarding the creation of a stormwater compliance project, on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 8 a.m.
- Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee work session update on integration of hydraulic project approval and forest practices application integration pursuant to Senate Bill 6406 (2012) on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 1:30 p.m.
- House Appropriation Committee work session briefing on natural resources programs, Thursday, Jan. 31, at 3:30 p.m.

We will continue to keep you informed of Puget Sound-related bills and budget issues. We appreciate you sharing your perspective about how these bills impact our collective effort to restore and protect Puget Sound.

Sign up to receive regular updates from the Partnership about our region's priorities and progress at http://www.psp.wa.gov/contact_simple.php.